

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



ASARCO Superfund Site, Ruston/Tacoma, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

August 2006

Public comments invited on agreement for cleanup of Asarco smelter site

Public meetings planned for August 22nd

Join EPA staff at one of two public meetings to discuss the sale and cleanup of the Asarco smelter property.

The U. S. Department of Justice (D.J.) has announced a 30-day public comment period on a proposed amendment to the existing Consent Decree (the "Second Amendment"). The agreement is with Point Ruston, LLC (owned by MC Construction) for cleanup at the former Asarco smelter property and some adjacent lands.

Written comments will be accepted through **September 15, 2006**. Send comments to:

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
P.O. Box 7611
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

Be sure to refer to the name and number of the proposed Consent Decree Second Amendment:

United States v. Asarco, Inc.
Civil Action No. **C91-5528B**
D.J. Ref. # **90-11-2-698A**

(Note: D.J. is acting on behalf of EPA in its role as EPA's representative on legal matters before a court.)

Copies of the proposed Consent Decree and Work Plan are available for review at these locations:

EPA Region 10 website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/asarco>

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100
Tacoma, WA
Call 253-383-2429 for appointment.

Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2006
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. or
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Asarco Information Center
(old Ruston school)
5219 North Shirley, Ruston

Tacoma Main Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Northwest Room
Tacoma, WA
Call 253-591-5666 for hours.

U.S EPA Region 10
Superfund Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
Please call 206-553-4494 for an appointment.

Highlights of the proposed cleanup plan

EPA and Point Ruston, LLC have developed a detailed Work Plan for the remaining cleanup work. Below are some of the key tasks that Point Ruston, LLC will be responsible for completing. You can review the entire Work Plan at the locations listed above.

- Install a protective cap of clean fill over the entire smelter site including the slag peninsula.
- Excavate the shallow nearshore sediments in the Yacht Basin which recreational users could come into contact with (deep sediments will be addressed separately by EPA.)

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*Public Comments Invited on
ASARCO Superfund Site
Ruston/Tacoma, WA
August 2006*



*Alternative formats are
available. For reasonable
accommodation, please
call Jeanne O'Dell. TTY*

*users, please call the Federal Relay
Service at 800-877-8339.*

- Install a protective cap of clean fill over 18 acres of contaminated sediments offshore from the Asarco site.
- Continue to follow guidelines developed by Asarco for local truck routes that minimize disruption to the community.
- Close the Ruston car tunnel and re-route the access road.

Background

As part of the Asarco bankruptcy proceedings, Point Ruston, LLC, of Lacey, Washington, has agreed to purchase the 67-acre former smelter property in Ruston/Tacoma from Asarco. As a condition of the sale agreement, Point Ruston, LLC is responsible for the remaining smelter cleanup work, as well as cleanup on some adjacent lands.

A negotiated settlement, called a Consent Decree, for the remaining cleanup work was lodged in federal court on July 27, 2006. A notice was published in the Federal Register on **August 16,**

2006, which began a 30-day public comment period. After addressing comments received during the public comment period, the U.S. Department of Justice will ask the court to finalize the Consent Decree.

Residential yard cleanups in North Tacoma are not part of this Consent Decree and will continue to be funded through the Asarco Trust Fund.

For more information, please contact:

Kevin Rochlin, EPA Project Manager
800-424-4372, ext. 2106
rochlin.kevin@epa.gov

Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Community Involvement Coord.
800-424-4372, ext. 6919
odell.jeanne@epa.gov

For information about residential yard sampling and cleanup, contact:

Asarco Information Center
Staffed by MRC Construction, Monday through
Thursday 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. 253-759-6015